

*Government Orders*

of contaminants either from another territory or from the provinces into its area.

A much more serious problem particularly affecting the Canadian Arctic now is the transportation of airborne toxics. They are carried in the higher areas of the atmosphere and come down either as toxified rain or snow. A very similar phenomenon to that which we know much more about is known as acid rain.

We are starting to find in the bodies of seal populations north of 60, in walrus and other marine mammals at the top of the food chain and in the polar bear population, the increasing likelihood that they will be unable in some major areas of the Arctic because of ecosystem contamination from the atmosphere to continue to reproduce. In the principal genital tracts of both male and female polar bears very high levels of contamination have already been found leading to the incapacity and inability to reproduce.

These are the major and difficult issues the Government of the N.W.T. will have to face. There is great fear in small communities such as some of those in the high Arctic where the breast milk of mothers was sampled in the last couple of years and very high levels of PCBs were found. No one could figure out how these high levels of PCBs could be getting into the mothers' systems. It was discovered that the PCBs were moving as aerosols, not through the ocean and not being carried up and dumped in the ocean by human accident in Canada. These were severe contaminants coming as airborne aerosols from Europe, the former Soviet Union, and continental North America. These airborne toxics and acid precipitation are starting to affect the entire ecosystems of the Northwest Territories.

It has an enormous task to assume because of this kind of global contamination problems which we find are increasingly carried through our water systems. The largest solar engine on earth is the movement of water. It is lifted by the heat of the sun into the sky. It falls either as rain or as snow or hail. It comes back on to the land and then the movement of water from there back to the oceans of the world occurs through gravity. These enormous system assessments will have to be undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories as part of its new duties.

It is one of the things I urge upon the new minister who is about to receive this delegated authority. That

new minister should look carefully at what kinds of economic instruments might best be sought to carry on this kind of nationally significant assessment of water contamination, water diversion, and the movement of these toxics through marine organisms.

I am glad to see my colleague who is an expert in microbiology and these kinds of biosystems here. He could well be of assistance to the Government of the Northwest Territories in preparing its first five-year fiscal approach to permitting regulation and assessment of these major topics.

I would hope by now that some government member would want to stand up for its legislation.

**Mr. Edwards:** Right here.

**Mr. Fulton:** My cousin is here, Mr. Speaker. You probably did not know this.

I think I have mentioned this before, but brother Edwards is actually related to me. I believe we are second cousins. We are not actually first cousins. This means that we are—I have digressed for a moment—related on my mother's side and his mother's side as well. He is a government member and I wish him well because he is going to be on this side of the House fairly soon.

**Mr. Edwards:** I am not joining your party.

**Mr. Fulton:** No. I was not suggesting that for a moment. I do not think my Uncle Bruce would approve of either of us crossing the floor. I think he is quite happy with us where we both are.

We are getting into some of the critical sections of the legislation. Under the conditions for the issue of licences—very important stuff—it is listed here. This flows right along with what I was talking about earlier. There are domestic users. I touched on that piece of legislation earlier about domestic users, such as I and others. We are there. We take out a pail of water, pump it out and use it for whatever we like.

Then there are instream users. A different kind of licence is required. Then there are authorized users. There are authorized waste depositors, that would apply to villages large and small. It would apply to individuals who might have small plaster operations or small industries of some kind who might need to make use of the water system to dispose of some kinds of material.